

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

ER DIVISION



Greetings from "R" division. We are now 1 month into our cruise and things are going great. We've gotten a few new members for this deployment. They are DCFN Jason Parrott, FN Guillermo Companioni and our new chief DCC (SW) William Bridgeforth. They are already starting to show a lot of promise and enjoyment in their work. We're also going to be saying farewell to two of our other shipmates. DC1 (SW/AW) Allen Elder and HT1 (SW) Marchsteiner. We would like to wish them both fair winds and following seas.

We also have several shipmates on their first cruise. They are DC3 Jevon Stewart, DC3 Carlos Sanchez, DCFN Jason Parrott and FN Guillermo Companioni. So far, SAN JACINTO has visited Palma, Spain, where we celebrated Christmas. A lot of us were visiting the Cowboy Club, so we could be together on such a special day. In Trieste, Italy we rang in the New Year's together in the downtown square. We all got to meet a lot of the locals and celebrate with them. Right now we're headed to ports unknown, but you know we'll all keep in contact. So for now, good bye from "R" division. **Merry Christmas, and Happy New Years!!!!**

EE DIVISION



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from EE Division! We would like to welcome the additions to our growing family of engineers. Welcome to EM2 Brian Benjamin, who has been a great help in shaping the EE division to maintaining their success and EMFN Gray who came from the USS ROOSEVELT. Also, we would like to welcome ETCS Jeffrey Roberson who has seen the light and now wants to join us in the pit. His leadership continues to

Follow him as he becomes the new LCPO of the division.

Congratulations also to EM2 Vincent Ayekof who is now a United States citizen. His hard work, dedication, and loyalty to the United States Navy knows no match.

As you all well know, the engineers had a hard training cycle leading up to deployment, and would like to thank our spouses for their support and love during these trying times. Because of their help, the engineers stayed focused and gave one hundred percent of their efforts, which led to a successful start. Now that we are on deployment, our loved ones are always on our minds but excitement and adventure are in our future. This is the first deployment for many of the individuals in EE division, and neither Palma Spain nor Trieste, Italy has disappointed us for liberty ports. Again, we would like to thank our families and friends for their strong support as we defend our country against terrorism.

EM DIVISION



First of all we would like to take this opportunity to welcome the newcomers to the San Jac Family: GSEC Peterson, GSM1 Helfrich, GSE2 Benjamin, FN Hayslett, FN Carter, FN Knight, and all of their respective families. We are glad to have your company among friends. Secondly we would like to congratulate the families who were blessed with newborns since our last newsletter. GSM2 Negrons's daughter Saania, born on 11/14/02, GSM1 Helfrich's daughter June Elizabeth born on 11/27/02; and GSM2 Andrew's son Dakota Duane born on 06/12/02. Thirdly, we would like to recognize all those who were advanced to the next pay grade during the last advancement cycle. GSM2 Negron, GSE3 Roach, GSE3 Louk, GSM3 Simpson, and GSM3 Sheridan congratulations to each of them; they are surely deserving of it. As all our loved ones know, we are a hard working group of engineers. We are always striving to train and qualify our new personnel.

GSEC Peterson is our newly qualified EOOW, GSM1 Helfrich has qualified as PACC Operator, GSE2 Benjamin, FN Hayslett, FN Worley, GSMFN Vargas, GSMFN Miller and FN Fitzgerald has all qualified Basic Damage Control.

We had a successful year after a compact and complex Inter Deployment Training Cycle. There were some trying times for us all and we demanded a hundred and ten percent. We would like to thank you for supporting your loved ones through those trying times. We would not be where we are today if it wasn't for your unselfish devotion and continued support. We attained every goal that we set out to achieve, such as our Initial Assessment and our Underway Demonstration certifications. We could not have done it without the support and help from our loved ones at home and the rest of the SAN JACINTO family. So far, this deployment has been a success even though we all would much rather be at home with our families and loved one for the holiday. However, we are making the best of our various port visits by taking part in tours and other outings sponsored by SAN JACINTO's MWR department. The MWR department has also sponsored such events as karaoke competition, which we are proud to say that GSM1 Gauthier won the first contest by a large margin. We are making the best of this deployment so far. Even though it's tough on you back home and on us alike, we are keeping busy getting ready for our next challenging assessment (Mid-Cycle Assessment). From all of us in the EM division we would like to say thank you for all the wonderful support that we get from our families and loved ones back home.



A-GANG DIVISION



Happy Holiday and greetings from A-Gang! We are doing as well as could be expected, since we are away from our families. We would like to welcome aboard ENFN Terrance Kennedy from the USS Peterson. He brings knowledge and experience to the division.

Congratulations to EN2 (SW/AW) Munro on his promotion and EN3 Pickney on his reenlistment. We also like to congratulate EN3 Stephens on his wedding engagement to Melanie Cheeks, which he proposed to her here onboard the ship on the morning of deployment.

A-Gang has a change at the Auxiliaries Officer's position, LTJG Brian Johnson has relieved LT Javier Medina as Auxo. Farewell to LT Medina as he enjoys shore duty at Afloat Training Group, Norfolk, VA.

We would like to thank our families and friends for their continued support during these difficult times. We are only as strong as the support that you give us. So until next time, so long and Season Greetings from the Navy's finest A-gangers.

SUPPLY
DEPARTMENT

S1/2/3/4 DIVISION

The last few months for the Supply Department have been busy ones. By working hard during the POM period,

leadership of LCDR Sevilla, LTJg Villarreal, ENS Henwood, MSC (SW) Wyrick, and SKC (SW/AW) Kurtz, supply was able to successfully prepare for deployment. Spare parts, food, and stores were taken onboard at maximum levels to show once again how dedicated the department is to providing utmost service to the crew.

The S-1 Division is currently providing critical support and repair parts in support of operation Enduring Freedom. All hands enjoyed time off for the Christmas holiday in Palma, Spain, and New Year's in Trieste, Italy. SK1 (SW) McDonald and SK1 (SW) Barnett are studying hard for the upcoming Chief's Exam this January, while SK2 Fabunmi is working hard to advance to first class on the March exam. SK2 (SS) Ballard, SK2 Peele, SK2 Diaz, SK3 Larreaponce, SK3 Porter, SK3 Bransford, are all working hard on attaining their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) qualification.

Some new faces have arrived in Hazmat. FC3 Trosclair, FC3 Irwin, ITSN Gilmore, ENFN Wright, and EMFN Williams are working hard to ensure that trash is separated and disposed of properly.

S-2 Division was honored to be part of MSC (SW/AW) Phillips' retirement ceremony on 30 October 2002, onboard SAN JACINTO. This ceremony commemorated Chief Phillips' distinguished Navy service of 26 proud years. Food service division has bid farewell to MSC (SW) Jones as he transferred to NAS ATLANTA and MS1 (SW) Orciga, who has moved to TPU in Norfolk.



MS3 Goby has also moved on to MAYPORT, FL. Excitement filled the galley air as the following "Chefs" were happy to see their names on the most recent Navy Wide Advancement list...MS3 Albinotres advances to MS2, MSSN Long advanced to MS3, and MSSN Jones earned his crow as well. Team Food Service has welcomed aboard its newest member, MSSR Roberson. MSSR Roberson comes to us after completing "A" School in San Antonio, TX. S-2 Division completed a very successful Pre overseas movement (POM) period. The crew's mess decks (dining facility) underwent a 3-week overhaul. The ribbon cutting and grand reopening took place on 3 December and was renamed CAFE 56. The mess decks now have a Texas sports theme. The pre-planning and readiness for a major deployment measure the success of any POM period. S-2 Division accomplished just that. The Food Service team deployed on 5 DEC with enough provisions (groceries) to endure the first 40 days at sea. The fine sailors of S-2 Division have left home for a worthy cause. We look forward to seeing the many countries of the Mediterranean and experiencing their cultures. This being said, the thought of home is not far from our hearts.

S-3 Division had a very successful POM period, and loaded out with over \$100,000 of merchandise for the Ship Store and vending machines. A total team effort was needed to accomplish this task. The division welcomes two new sailors. SHSR Dyrone Polly from Luling, LA checked onboard in October and SHSA Gary Heard from Houston, TX came aboard shortly before the deployment. Both are off to a great start. Several members of the division are now serving the crew in new jobs. SH2 (SW) Bazile has been overseeing the professional development of SH3 Ransaw, SH3 Helzer, SH3 Kobel, SH3 Bradford, SHSA Heard and SHSR Polly as they work to advance and to gain their ESWS pins. Congratulations are in order for SH3 Atini Ransaw and his wife Kim as they welcomed their first child, Tianna Denise on Christmas Day. SH3 Kobel would like to send birthday wishes to his wife Shonta and daughter Alicia. SH2 Bazile sends his best to his children Lexus, Jermy, and Jordan for their upcoming birthdays.

The Disbursing Office completed a successful POM period and got the good news that our striker had passed his advancement exam. DK3 Vladimir Arias put on his crow and his advancement is a testament to DK2 Jason Cline who oversaw his training. DK3 Frost and DK3 Arias are currently working towards their ESWS pin; they have 90% of their ESWS book completed. DK3 Arias is also working on his PQS for Petty Officer Of the Watch. DK3 Frost is currently studying for the DK2 exam coming up this March. He's also reenlisting for orders. DK2 Cline received orders to Dam Neck VA, and he is also studying for his DK1 exam coming up in March. In the post office, PC3 Carlson is working towards his ESWS pin and getting his Petty Officer of the watch PQS completed.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

OT DIVISION



OT division would first like to thank everyone back home for their support through the holiday season. Your letters, pictures, packages and email mean so much to us when we are so far away. There is no better felling than seeing a familiar face or eating some of your favorite baked goods made by that one person no one could imitate.

The division has added a few new people to the team. We would like to welcome EWC (SW/AW) Sprake, EW1(SW) Galvan, CTR2 Sharpe, CTR2(SW) Sharrer, and EWSR Pilgrim. Your experience and knowledge will support us during deployment. We said a temporary farewell to CTR2(SW) Smith who is riding Truman for the deployment.

OT division has always had a reputation for having some of the finest sailors on the ship. CTR1 (SW) Hoffman and CTO2 (SW) Penley kept that tradition alive by their nomination as Sailor of the Quarter.

Congratulations to Petty Officer Hoffman for being San Jac Senior Sailor of the Quarter, and CTO2(SW) Penley for representing the division in a stellar manner. Congratulations to LTJg Fefer for qualifying Surface Warfare Officer, and IS1(SW) Fisher who qualified Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist. CTR3 McAlexander was also advanced to Petty Officer Third Class. GREAT JOB!

Our port visits to Palma and Trieste have been more than exciting thanks to the meticulous work done by CWO2 Bourdreau and CTR1 (SW) Brown, the ship's MWR coordinators. Their many hours of off duty planning, preparation, and coordination, allowed the crew to socialize and relax. BZ to both of them for their dedication to the entire crew to enjoy the rich history of the Island of Mallorca and the beautiful city of Venice. They also organized weekly recreation activities such as karaoke and bingo.

In conclusion, we send our best wishes home to our family and friends. While out in a foreign lands and sailing the cold waters of the Mediterranean, our thoughts of you are what keeps us warm in the middle of the night and comforted during our long and tedious watches. We wish you a happy and prosperous New Year from the sailors in OT division.

OI DIVISION



(THE BLUE ROOM)

Happy Holiday Greeting to all our loved ones back home from the world's finest Aegis Cruiser, USS SAN JACINTO, and OI Division. The Combat Information Center has been a very busy place since taking on the task of being the Air Defense Commander for the HARRY S. TRUMAN Battle Group. You can be assured that we accepted the task in an extremely professional manner and will continue to uphold the task throughout the deployment. Since leaving our family and friends back in the States, we have had the opportunity of spending our Christmas in Palma de Mallorca, Spain and our New Year's in Trieste,

Italy. Both ports were very enjoyable with lots of friendly people, but still left all of us longing for home. OI Division had a few noteworthy accomplishments that we would like to share. Congratulations goes out to OS1(SW/AW) Eric Peterson for being selected as USS SAN JACINTO'S Sailor of the Year. OS1(SW/AW) Peterson will continue his competition in hopes of being selected as the Battle Group Sailor of the Year. We will keep you informed. We had a large group of individuals that were promoted to a higher paygrade that we would like to make note of. Advance to OS3 were OS3 Darren Flynn, OS3(SW) Justin Mays, OS3 Jarrett Sisson, and OS3 Sandy Inoceno. Advanced to OS2 were OS2(SW) Ryan Bray and OS2 Hilman Guillory. Being advanced to OS1 were OS1(SW) Jason Nieto and OS1 Anthony Crowell.

We also had a small group of sailors obtain their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin. Congratulations goes out to OI's newest surface warriors: OS3(SW) Justin Mays, OS2(SW) Antonio Sojourner, OS2(SW) Richard Payne, and OS2(SW) Ryan Bray.

OI Division would like to hail in a few new shipmates to our team. Welcome aboard to OSSN Ronald Sims, OS3 Darren Flynn, and OS1 Anthony Crowell. We would also like to send our fair winds and following seas to a number of shipmates that have moved on: OS2 Christopher Andrews, OS2 Donald Iudica, OS2 Richard Patterson, OS2(SW) Lance Hicks, and OS1(SW) Donald Stoner. OS1(SW) Stoner ended his naval career after 20 years of faithful service on 31 Dec 2002.

Until we met again, farewell from OI Division and The Blue Room Team.

SAN JACINTO'S RADIO FAMILY



The deployment has begun for members of the Radio Family onboard and at home. We all miss you very much, and are thinking of you constantly. Radio is doing very well. We need to congratulate IT2(SW) Myers for 2 things. Not only did he achieve his ESWS (Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist) qualification; he has been selected as USS SAN JACINTO Junior Sailor of the Year. This is a great honor for Petty Officer Myers and all of Radio. It is with the support of others that someone can

achieve such acclimation. This honor is well deserved and we are all very proud of him. The support groups are in full swing at home. Thanks must go out to all of you for participating, with additional thanks from all of us to Peggy Wilcox for her participation. Not only is she a key member of the support group, she recently had to change residents without her husband there to help. Great job Peggy. Support groups help us feel at ease over here knowing that you are all helping each other get through this as we do here on the ship. Thanks from all of us.

Just want to mention a few people that through their preparations have made the smooth transition from home-port to deployment. IT3 Murphy for his ordering of supplies, the key to a successful mission. Petty Officer Murphy's dedication and hard work has prepared us well. IT3 Young has been instrumental in maintaining the email flow from home. His knowledge of our systems ensures the best possible connectivity. CTOSN Neas has joined our crew in Radio to help supplement for manning short falls. He has become a very valuable member of our team. Last but not least, IT3 Langley has also become invaluable to this team. His PQS qualifications and desire to learn the job not only helps him for advancement, it makes our team much stronger. Thanks goes to the entire Radio family, but I wanted to mention a couple of our team members that are standing out right now.

No matter what challenge the Radio family is presented with, we always achieve and surpass expectations. This comes from your continued support. My thanks goes to all of you for carrying on the tasks of life while we are deployed. Your hard work and dedication is prevalent in the way that this crew can focus on the job here knowing that you have it well in hand at home. God Bless and Take Care.



Season's greeting from the SAN JACINTO Bos'n and his mates. Wishing everyone happy holidays, and a wonderful New Year. Life in Deck continues to be busy and challenging, with only a month into the deployment we have already completed more than 100 hours of flight quarters, as well as numerous small boat, mooring, and underway replenishment evolutions on time and safely. All of our hard work and long days at sea were rewarded with two great port visits. First the city of Palma on the Spanish island of Mallorca, and then to Trieste, Italy. While in port, everyone took advantage of all the tours and trips offered by MWR, as well as catching up on preserving the mighty San Jac.

All of us in Deck would like to welcome aboard our new motivated shipmates: SR Kepner from Canisteo NY, SN Collier from Anchorage AK, SR Tubbs from Huston TX, and our Blue Jacket of the Quarter SR Holder from Bedford, TX. They all have successfully completed their qualification requirements and have proven themselves as great addition to the division, and the command. Until next time, be safe and God bless.



AIR DEPARTMENT



Air Department would like to wish the entire SAN JACINTO family Merry Christmas and the very best New Year! To our families in Mayport, we wish we could have been with you to unwrap all the presents and toast in the New Year, but you were never far from our hearts!

We started the deployment off with another SAN JACINTO first, being the only helicopter department to get aboard before getting underway. The weather at sea was so foggy, the helicopters were flown aboard the ship while moored to the pier. We didn't even put the second helo in the hangar before the ship's whistle sounded and SAN JACINTO was on her way. Heading east, we quickly turned our focus to the shipboard operating routine. The pilots and aircrew re-based all their qualifications in the first couple days, while the maintainers worked at a feverish pace to tweak the helicopters back into peak performance. When the HARRY S. TRUMAN Battle Group entered the Mediterranean through the Strait of Gibraltar, VENOM helicopters were flying armed escort. It took a tremendous effort and superb teamwork by all the maintenance personnel to ensure the Helicopters were ready. That pace did not let up as we pulled into Palma de Mallorca, Spain, just before Christmas, and one of our helicopters was put into a major inspection. We all managed to have some fun in Palma, while still accomplishing a lot of work. We enjoyed tours across the island, shopping, and the nightlife wasn't

half bad either. The highlight was calling home for the first time and receiving our first mail and care packages. Many of us will have to start the Cruise Diet and work out regimen after New Years thanks to some of those care packages! Yum! It wasn't a white Christmas, but it was a very relaxing and welcome opportunity to learn some Spanish customs and enjoy some terrific food.

Coming out of Palma, we flew a few days before pulling into Trieste, Italy for the New Year. Trieste offered many different sites and entertainment opportunities than Palma. Many enjoyed the scenic ride to the Air Force Base at Aviano, Italy, and the brief train rides to Venice. Everyone that made it to Venice had a great time and got to see one of the most unique cities in the world. The city of Trieste threw a huge New Year's party in the town square. It wasn't "Time's Square, NYC" but it made being away from home on another holiday a little more bearable. We have been out of Trieste for a week now. The aircraft are flying great and everyone is working hard. The phrase for the past few days has been "One Month Down." We wish it was more, but are truly excited and proud of the job we are doing out here. Our hearts and minds are with you every day!



Congratulation to San Jacinto's New **SURFACE WARFARE OFFICERS!**

LTJG FEFER



Bravo Zulu to all the new **ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE SPECIALIST!**

CTRC(SW) ORTMAN
SH3(SW) RANSHAW
STG2(SW) HALL
STG2(SW) MIRANDA
DC2(SW) HILL
SK2(SW) PEELE
YN1(SW) BOBZIEN
FC2(SW) BABCOCK
STG2(SW) BLONDIN
STG2(SW) MAGNOTTA
MS1(SW) BLYSTONE
ET2(SW) DEEVER
GM1(SW) VEAL
IT3(SW) LANGLEY
QM3(SW) COOPER
GM1(SW) CALLAWAY
MS2(SW) LEFEBER
OS2(SW) J. HARRIS

OS2(SW) EARP
OS2(SW) P. HARRIS
FC3(SW) BECKER
FC3(SW) WAIDNER
FC2(SW) ROHMER
FC2(SW) HOHLER
YN3(SW) RANDALL
SM3(SW) TINES
MS3(SW) EBERHEART
STG3(SW) MCCLUTCHY
SN(SW) COLLIER
BM2(SW) BULLOCK
MS2(SW) ALEXANDER
MS3(SW) LONG
OSSN(SW) LONG
FCSN(SW) MCDONALD
CTO1(SW) RICHARDSON
YN2(SW) HORN

EN3(SW) PICKNEY
CTR2(SW) SHARPE
YN3(SW) COSS
FC3(SW) ISHAM
OS2(SW) ELLIS